

Subject MERC funding for training in nursing facility settings

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Summary

This bill removes the prohibition on nursing facility settings from receiving medical education and research costs (MERC) funding and provides an effective date of July 1, 2020, or upon federal approval, whichever occurs later.

The MERC fund was created by the legislature in 1999. It is used to reimburse teaching institutions for a portion of the cost of clinical training of health care providers. There are four sources of state revenue for the MERC fund: (1) a portion of cigarette tax revenues; (2) the PMAP carve-out; (3) University of Minnesota transfers; and (4) appropriations from the state general fund and health care access fund.